

The ORGANIZER



IWW Joins 1000 Strong March For Immigrants' Rights

The Twin Cities IWW contingent of 15+ and our red "An Injury to One is an injury to All" banner joined hundreds others in a March for Immigrant Rights through the working-class immigrant districts of south Minneapolis on a freezing cold February 12th 2006.

The lively march came in direct response to the anti-immigrant sentiment being whipped up by Minnesota's Republican governor Tim Pawlenty and revelations that some Minneapolis Police Department patrol cops have taken it upon themselves to start making random citizenship status checks and holding workers found without proper papers for the INS. Such conduct is in direct violation of Minneapolis City rules and ordinance.

The large and multinational/multiracial crowd was a strong statement that these attacks will not go unanswered, and that if Pawlenty or the MPD think that immigrant workers and their supporters will be easy victims, they have another thing coming.

The IWW has historically rejected U.S. national patriotism, and always welcomed workers of every nationality and ethnicity into our ranks. Immigrant workers have been some of the IWW's best organizers and have played central roles in many of our most important strikes. The IWW also contributed contingents of fighters to the revolutionary efforts of the "Magonista" insurgency in Mexico in the early part of the 20th century.

The class struggle has no country!



Join The One Big Union!

Workers and bosses have fundamentally different interests. As isolated workers we lack control over our workplaces. We accept the wages and hours our employers offer, or we're out of a job. Organizing into unions gives us the power to challenge our bosses and make our own workplace decisions.

The Industrial Workers of the World is open to workers in all industries. By joining you enter into a community of worker solidarity. IWW members, or "wobblies," support one another both on and away from the job. An injury to one is an injury to all!

The IWW will represent you even you do not work in a wobbly-organized shop. Your union membership is confidential - it is up to you whether to tell your employer or coworkers. And because the rank and file govern the IWW, we do not have to pay union bureaucrat salaries, keeping dues low. If you are interested in becoming a wobbly, get in touch with us.

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Wobblies Rally to Support the Soldiers Of Solidarity

Several fellow workers from the Twin Cities GMB road-tripped to Milwaukee last month in order to attend a public meeting held by the Soldiers of Solidarity, a strong and energetic group of UAW rank and filers who have been taking matters into their own hands through direct action. These fellow workers have faced intimidation and harassment more by the bureaucracy of their own unions than by the corporations that employ them.

We were able to meet with and talk to the leaders of the movement at length regarding their implementation of "work to rule", which comes straight out of the Wobbly handbook in that it advocates worker-led slowdowns and shop-floor agitation to meet their demands. Although not all the members of this group carry a red card, they certainly all believe in I.W.W. ideals.

For more information on this exciting rank and file phenomenon, check out their website:

www.soldiersofsolidarity.com

Why "The Organizer?"

72 years ago, the city of Minneapolis stood still as workers took to the streets, demanding better pay, better hours, and union recognition for all workers in the trucking industry. Despite massive, violent opposition from the bosses and bureaucratic betrayal from within their own union, the Teamsters' Strike of 1934 was a decisive victory for the working class. The strike showed the possibility of organizing an entire industry, beyond divisive craft lines, and paved the way for Minneapolis to become a union town.

Today, we still face a divided labor movement, worsened by ineffective and bureaucratic leadership. We're still up against a media owned and operated by and for those with the big money. One of the most powerful tools in the strike of 1934 was the union's own daily newspaper, "The Organizer," which countered the lies of the boss press, built solidarity amongst the Cities' workers, and promoted a vision of what working people, standing as one, could do.

In tribute, we have named this broadsheet the same, to recognize our part in the continual struggle to put working people in control of our own lives. Towards the same goals of class consciousness and solidarity, towards industrial organization, and towards the One Big Union, this is The Organizer.

Class War Workshop. . .

On February 4th and 5th, two experienced organizers from the Chicago branch of the IWW visited Minneapolis and gave a two-day organizer training session. About twenty-five local wobblies participated in the event.

The training covered practical preparation considerations for an organizing campaign, such as compiling a contact list for all the employees at a shop and mapping out a workplace. Wobblies present also participated in mock discussions with coworkers about unionizing.

Not only did the training demonstrate organizing techniques, it also sparked a lively debate about selecting organizing targets in the Twin Cities. These discussions carried beyond the training and led to the inception, two days later at our general membership branch meeting, of a General Organizing Committee dedicated to coordinating organizing efforts within our branch.

Despite the early starting time (9am on a Saturday!), all participants enjoyed themselves and came away from the event focused and energized. The high turnout and positive reception were particularly inspiring. In the IWW, all workers are organizers, and events like this training session are necessary for us to achieve our long-term goals of democratic industrial organization.



Next I.W.W. Twin Cities General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, April 4th, 7pm
Wolves Den Coffee House 1201A East Franklin (in Minneapolis)